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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

72875 7590 01/28/2009

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER

HA, NGUYEN Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 01/28/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/520,118	11/21/2005	Hironori Endo	Q85548	9556

TITLE OF INVENTION: PRINTER, PRINTING METHOD, PROGRAM, COMPUTER SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	04/28/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

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Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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72875 7590 01/28/2009

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/520,118	11/21/2005	Hironori Endo	Q85548	9556

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	04/28/2009
EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS				
HA, NGUYEN Q	2854	400-579000				

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
 "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____
2 _____
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3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): Individual Corporation or other private group entity Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

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 Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
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4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- A check is enclosed.
 Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
 The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

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Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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72875	7590	01/28/2009	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20037				HA, NGUYEN Q
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2854				DATE MAILED: 01/28/2009

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 256 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 256 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/520,118	ENDO, HIRONORI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	'Wyn' Q. HA	2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 7 October 2008.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2-6,8-10 and 12-15.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The Examiner's Amendment is to correct some of the claim language in order to clearly and accurately reflect the claimed invention.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's representing attorney N. Dvorson on January 7, 2009.

IN THE CLAIM

The following claims have replaced all prior versions and listings of claims:

Claim 1: A printing apparatus comprising:
a detection section that is capable of moving and that is for detecting a medium to be printed;
a transporting section for transporting the medium to be printed in a direction that intersects a movement direction of said detection section; and
a control section,
wherein the control section first causes said detection section to be positioned on one side in said movement direction,

then causes said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed in a predetermined direction up to a first detection position where said detection section detects a first upper end of said medium to be printed, and

then causes said detection section to move from the one side to the other side that is opposite from the one side in said movement direction, where said detection section detects a second upper end of said medium to be printed,

wherein if said detection section detects that said second upper end is leading said first upper end by at least a set amount at said first detection position, said control section causes said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed from said detection position in a direction opposite from said predetermined direction, then causes said medium to be printed to be transported in said predetermined direction up to a second detection position where said detection section detects said medium to be printed, and then causes said medium to be printed to be transported by a predetermined amount in said predetermined direction from said second detection position; and

wherein if said detection detects that said first upper end is leading said second upper end, said control section causes said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed in said predetermined direction from said first detection position by said predetermined amount without causing said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed from said first detection position in the direction opposite from said predetermined direction.

Claim 2: (Canceled)

Claim 3: A printing apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein when said second upper end is leading said first upper end by
less than said set amount at said first detection position, said control section
causes said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed in said
predetermined direction from said first detection position by said predetermined
amount.

Claim 4: A printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a print head for printing on said medium to be printed by ejecting ink as
said print head moves in a main-scanning direction that intersects the
transporting direction in which said medium to be printed is carried transported.

Claim 5: A printing apparatus according to claim 4,
wherein said detection section is provided together with said print head
in/on a moving member for moving in said main-scanning direction.

Claim 6: A printing apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the control section determines the leading end among the first
upper end and the second upper by detecting whether or not each said upper
end is detected after causing said transporting section to transport said medium
to be printed to said first detection position.

7. (canceled).

Claim 8: A printing apparatus according to claim 6,

wherein

if said detection section does not detect said medium to be printed after the detection section is moved, then it is assumed that said first upper end is leading at said first detection position, or that said second upper end is leading by less than the set amount, and

if said detection section detects said medium to be printed after the detection section is moved, then it is assumed that said second upper end is leading by at least the set amount.

Claim 9: A printing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said detection section has a light-emitting member for emitting light and a light-receiving member for receiving the light that is emitted by said light-emitting member, and detects said medium to be printed based on an output value of said light-receiving member.

Claim 10: A printing apparatus according to claim 4,

wherein said print head performs printing with respect to an entire surface of said medium to be printed.

Claim 11: (Canceled)

Claim 12: A printing method for a printing apparatus provided with a sensor that is capable of moving and that is for detecting a medium to be printed, and a transport roller for transporting the medium to be printed in a direction that intersects a movement direction of said sensor, said printing method comprising:

first causing said sensor to be positioned on one side in said movement direction;

then causing said transport roller to transport said medium to be printed in a predetermined direction up to a first detection position where said sensor detects a first upper end of said medium to be printed; and

then causing said sensor to move from the one side to the other side that is opposite from the one side in said movement direction, where said sensor detects a second upper end of said medium to be printed, and

wherein if said sensor detects that said second upper end is leading said first upper end by at least a set amount at said first detection position, causing said transport roller to transport said medium to be printed from said first detection position in a direction opposite from said predetermined direction, then causing said transport roller to transport said medium to be printed in said predetermined direction up to a second detection position where said sensor detects said medium to be printed, and then causing said transport roller to transport said medium to be printed by a predetermined amount in said predetermined direction from said second detection position, and

wherein if said detection section detects that said first upper end is leading said second upper end, causing said transport roller to transport said medium to be printed in said predetermined direction from said first detection position by said predetermined amount without causing said transport roller to transport said medium to be printed from said first detection position in the direction opposite from said predetermined direction.

Claim 13: A computer readable storage medium which stores program instructions for causing a printing apparatus, provided with a detection section that is capable of moving and that is for detecting a medium to be printed and a transporting section for transporting the medium to be printed in a direction that intersects a movement direction of said detection section, to achieve:

a function of first causing said detection section to be positioned on one side in said movement direction;

a function of then causing said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed in a predetermined direction up to a first detection position where said detection section detects said medium to be printed; and

a function of then causing said detection section to move from the one side to the other side that is opposite from the one side in said movement direction, where said detection section detects a second upper end of said medium to be printed,

wherein if said detection section detects that said second upper end is leading said first upper end by at least a set amount at said first detection

position, causing said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed from said first detection position in a direction opposite from said predetermined direction, then causing said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed in said predetermined direction up to a second detection position where said detection section detects said medium to be printed, and then causing said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed by a predetermined amount in said predetermined direction from said second detection position, and

wherein if said detection section detects that said first upper end is leading said second upper end, causing said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed in said predetermined direction from said first detection position by said predetermined amount without causing said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed from said first detection position in the direction opposite from said predetermined direction.

Claim 14: A computer system comprising:

a printing apparatus provided with a detection section that is capable of moving and that is for detecting a medium to be printed, a transporting section for transporting the medium to be printed in a direction that intersects a movement direction of said detection section, a control section, and a main computer unit that is connected to said printing apparatus; wherein

said control section of the printing apparatus:

first causes said detection section to be positioned on one side in said movement direction;

then causes said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed in a predetermined direction up to a first detection position where said detection section detects a first upper end of said medium to be printed; and

then causes said detection section to move from the one side to the other side that is opposite from the one side in said movement direction, where said detection section detects a second upper end of said medium to be printed, and

wherein if said detection section detects that said second upper end is leading said first upper end by at least a set amount at said first detection position, said control section causes said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed from said first detection position in a direction opposite from said predetermined direction, then causes said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed in said predetermined direction up to a second detection position where said detection section detects said medium to be printed, and then causing said transporting section to transport the medium to be printed by a predetermined amount in said predetermined direction from said second detection position, and

wherein if said detection detects that said first upper end is leading said second upper end, said control section causes said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed in said predetermined direction from said first detection position by said predetermined amount without causing said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed from said first detection position in the direction opposite from said predetermined direction.

Claim 15: A printing apparatus comprising:

a sensor that is capable of moving and that is for detecting a medium to be printed;

a transport roller for transporting the medium to be printed in a direction that intersects a movement direction of said sensor; and

a control section,

wherein the control section first causes said sensor to be positioned on one side in said movement direction;

then causes said transport roller to transport said medium to be printed in a predetermined direction up to a first detection position where said sensor detects said medium to be printed; and

then causes said sensor to move from the one side to the other side that is opposite from the one side in said movement direction, where the sensor detects a second upper end of said medium to be printed, and

wherein if said sensor detects that said second upper end is leading said first upper end by at least a set amount at said first detection position, the control section causes said transport roller to transport said medium to be printed from said first detection position in a direction opposite from said predetermined direction, then causes said transport roller to transport said medium to be printed in said predetermined direction up to a second detection position where said sensor detects said medium to be printed, and then causes said transport roller to transport said medium to be printed by a predetermined amount in said predetermined direction from said second detection position, and

wherein if said sensor detects that said first upper end is leading said second upper end, the control section causes said transport roller to transport said medium to be printed in said predetermined direction from said first detection position by said predetermined amount without causing said transporting roller to transport said medium to be printed from said first detection position in the direction opposite from said predetermined direction.

Allowable Subject Matter

All pending claims 1, 3-6, 8-10 and 12-15 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to the independent claims 1 and 12-15, prior art of record doesn't teach, suggest or render obvious the total combination of the structures/steps being claimed, including (Refer to application figs. 11 and 14):

wherein if said detection section detects that said second upper end is leading said first upper end by at least a set amount at said first detection position, said control section causes said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed from said detection position in a direction opposite from said predetermined direction, then causes said medium to be printed to be transported in said predetermined direction up to a second detection position where said detection section detects said medium to be printed, and then causes said medium to be printed to be transported by a predetermined amount in said predetermined direction from said second detection position; and

wherein if said detection section detects that said first upper end is leading said second upper end, said control section causes said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed in said predetermined direction from said first detection position by said predetermined amount without causing said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed from said first detection position in the direction opposite from said predetermined direction.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Prior art made of record listed in the attached "Notice of References Cited" but not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

All of the listed references, which are the closest references found, basically anticipate possible skew of a sheet being fed to a print start position and provide correction mechanism/methods to enhance printing by either correcting the skew prior to printing or by adjusting print data to adapt to said skew. However, except for the cited JP-2007245485 A to Mizuno, which was published on 9/27/2007 (after the priority date 7/4/2002 and filing date 1/3/2005 of the present application, thus would not be applicable for any rejection), none of the cited references teach, suggest or render obvious the total combination of the structures/steps being claimed by the present invention which not only

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anticipates possible skew of a sheet being fed to a print start position but also performs a margin less (edge-to-edge) printing operation without requiring correction of skew or adjustment of print data.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to 'Wyn' Q. HA whose telephone number is (571)272-2863. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, from 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NQH

/Jill E. Culler/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2854